

Children celebrate school renovations with CJTF-HOA

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Adam C. Schnell

ALI ADDE, Djibouti – Students line the sidewalks, filling the quiet village of Ali Adde with the sounds of cheering and rhythmic clapping as their distinguished guests arrive to celebrate the ribbon-cutting for their ‘new’ school here Jan. 12.

Members of Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa traveled to the small community to celebrate the hard work and cooperation put forth that renovated the numerous buildings that make up the only primary school in the area.

“The elders that sit in front of me stand for the leadership of this town, but you and I aren’t the future,” said Marine Brig. Gen. Mastin M. Robeson, commanding general CJTF-HOA, as he spoke to the community during the celebration. “The future is the children that stand behind us, your children, my children, the next generation.”

The \$42,523 worth of renovations was contracted out to a local company called Daoud Ismail Had Enterprise. The repairs ranged from replacing ceilings to installing running water in the bathrooms.

The work included repairing windows, floors, doors, indoor and outdoor lights, and a complete renovation of the school’s kitchen. The workers also installed two community sinks.

Besides the contracted work being performed beyond standards established in the agreement, they also hired general laborers from the local community. The contractor hired people from the community to keep the funds flowing within the area.

“A lot of time in a contract, it is stated that the contractor must hire labor in the local village,” said Army Maj. Julian K. Garvin, team leader with 478th Civil Affairs Battalion. “It’s kind of a win-win situation.”

Besides the contracted work done on the primary school, recently the Ali Sabieh Hospital was completed with the many needed renovations to help the district offer a better way of life for the children and the sick.

“The civil affair teams have done great in this region,” commented Garvin.

Another key to supporting CJTF-HOA’s anti-terrorism mission is communication, said Garvin. The community needs to understand what the American troops are doing and the reason they are here.

Although nominations for more projects in the

region are still under review, the expectation of future work in the district is very promising, added Garvin. In many of the communities, American troops are always embraced with open arms.

Many of the people in the region realize that what the Americans are doing here and know is not just another handout, added Garvin. Most want a better quality of life and are willing to help with the cooperate efforts like volunteering to complete some painting.

Volunteer labor doesn’t stop at painting for many of the people in the community of Ali Adde. The construction of a well and water pump house is in progress that will provide water to the newly renovated school.

Since CJTF-HOA supplied the volunteers with materials like piping and a water pump, they estimated the project to be finished in 15 days.

Robeson ended his speech by saying, “I hope one day that my sons come here and stand where I am, and your sons can stand with them and continue this great partnership for years to come.”



(Above Center) An Army Captain and project leader for 478th Civil Affairs Battalion, shakes the hand of a local student after receiving a gift from him at a ribbon-cutting ceremony here Jan. 12. The celebration marked the finish of many new renovations made to the primary school in the village. (Bottom Right) Marine Brig. Gen. Mastin M. Robeson, commanding general Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa, cuts the ribbon with Ibrahim Soubaneh Rayaleh, commissioner for the District of Ali Sabieh, to dedicate the recent renovations on the primary school.

The Horn Courier



This DoD newsletter is an authorized publication of the Department of Defense. Contents of The Horn Courier are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Public Affairs Office, Camp Lemonnier, Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa.

The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the Public Affairs Office, Camp Lemonnier, CJTF-HOA. Any questions may be directed to: Public Affairs, APO AE 09363 Phone DSN: (318) 824-2342.

The Horn Courier



ribbon-cutting ceremony in Ali Adde Jan. 12.

Cover photo by LCpl. Adam C. Schnell

A soldier, Marine, an airman, all members of CJTF-HOA, interact with local children during a

Table of Content

News.....Page 2-4

AwardsPage 5

MWR Events.....Page 6

Troop of the Week....Page 7